

AFMC LSO/LOP  
5215 THURLOW ST  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OH  
45433-5540  
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**PACKAGING PERFORMANCE TESTING**  
**OF A**  
**CORRUGATED FIBERBOARD BOX (12 IN. BY 12 IN. BY 12 IN.), CONTAINING SIX 1-QUART**  
**OBLONG METAL BOTTLES - PACKING GROUP I (SURFACE MODES ONLY)**

Date: May 17, 2001

AFPTEF PROJECT NUMBER: 01-101  
POP TEST ID NUMBER: DODPOPHM/USA/DOD/AF69/DLA-F008

**Part 1. Report Cover**

TEST REPORT APPLICABILITY STATEMENTS see section 2E:

Manhours: 20 Hours

Report Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Susan J. Evans  
Materials Engineer

**A. Report Number:** DODPOPHM/AF69/DLA-F008

**B. Title:**

CORRUGATED FIBERBOARD BOX (12 IN. BY 12 IN. BY 12 IN.), CONTAINING SIX 1-QUART OBLONG METAL BOTTLES - PACKING GROUP I ( SURFACE MODES ONLY)

**Responsible Individual:** Michael Werneke

This report has been approved for publication and dated:

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
L.A. WOOD, Chief  
Engineering Branch

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL WERNEKE  
Chief, AF Packaging Technology and Engineering Facility

**Performing Activity:**

AF Packaging Technology and Engineering Facility  
AFMC LSO/LOP  
5215 Thurlow St  
WPAFB OH 45433-5540

**AFPTEF Reference:** 01-101

**Date:** May 17, 2001

**Report Type:** Final

**Specific Authority:**

Distribution Statement F. Further dissemination only as directed by the Air Force Packaging Technology and Engineering Facility (AFPTEF), AFMC LSO/LOP, 5215 Thurlow St, WPAFB OH 45433 or higher DoD authority.

Requesting Organization: Defense Logistics Agency  
DDC-J-3/J-4-0  
ATTN: Linda McCarthy  
2001 Mission Drive  
New Cumberland PA 17070

Requesting Organization's Reference(s):

(1) Letter 6 Dec 2000

**Part 2. Data Sheet****A. Exterior Shipping Container****UN Type:** FIBERBOARD BOX**UN Code:** 4G**NSN:** 8115-00-183-9491**Specification Number(s):** ASTM D5118, Style RSC,/ASTM D4727, Type CF, Class WR, VAR SW, GR 350, V3c**Container Manufacturer:** Lynchburg Sheltered Industries, Lynchburg, VA 24501**Date of Manufacture:** 2001 (GSA advice code "2G" – newest stock)**Material:** Corrugated Fiberboard**Container Dimensions:** 12 in. x 12 in. x 12 in. ID**Closure (Type/Method):** ASTM D1974, Sealing Method B (7-Strip Method). Use 2-inch A-A- 1830 clear tape on closure, NSN 7510-00-266-6715.**Reinforcement (Type/Method):** ASTM D1972, Reinforcement Method 2B, using 1-inch wide filament reinforced tape (1 girthwise band for every 15 inches of box height/length).**Closure Specification Number(s):** A-A-1830 clear tape, 2-inch, NSN 7510-00-266-6715.**Reinforcement Specification Number(s):** A-A-1687 Fiber Reinforced Tape, 1-inch; NSN 7510-00-582-4772.**Absorbent Material Description:** Vermiculite, Fine Grain, Palmetto Vermiculite Company, Incorporated, Grade C-3; Hazmatpac A-900, HAZMATPAC Inc.; and Absorbent GP, Absorption Corporation.**Additional Description:** N/R**B. Inner Packaging of Combination Packaging****Type:** Oblong metal bottle.**Manufacturer/Distributor:** HAZMATPAC**Date of Manufacture:** N/R**Manufacturer's Number(s):** C 671**Capacity:** 1 quart (32 ounces)**Dimensions:** 2.5 x 4.5 x 7.5 in.**Closure (Method/Type):** Metal screw-on cap**Secondary Closure (Method/Type):** One strip of reinforced tape (as above) wrapped a minimum of 1 ½ times around and overlapping the cap(s) base and the bottle neck(s).**Additional Description:** NA**C. Actual Product:** Not Used**D. Test Product:** Used**Name:** Water**United Nations Packaging Group:** I**Physical State:** Liquid**Amount per outer container:** 6**Test Weight (packaged with vermiculite):** 25 lb (11.3 Kg) See Part 3.**Test Weight (packaged with HAZMATPAC A-900):** 29 lb (13.2 Kg) See Part 3.**Test Weight (packaged with Absorbent GP):** 24 lb (10.9 Kg) See Part 3.**Density/Specific Gravity:** 1.0**Drop Height:** 1.8 meters**Stacking Weight/Force Required:** 256.2 lb (116.2 Kg)**Stacking Weight/Force Used:** 344 lb (156 Kg)**Additional Description:**

1. Line the box with a 4-mil gusseted polyethylene bag, size 28 in. x 32 in.
2. Place 2.5 inches of vermiculite absorbent (or Absorbent GP or HAZMATPAC A-900) in bottom of box. [If using Absorbent GP or A-900, firmly compress and add more to a depth of 2.5 inches.] Place 6 bottles

on vermiculite, two rows of three each with approximately 1 inch between the bottles and the outer bottles and sides of the box; there should be slightly more space between the bottles and box than between the bottles. Add vermiculite between the bottles and sides of box and between bottles and each other. Cover with a minimum of 2.5 in. vermiculite. [If using Absorbent GP or A-900, firmly pack down the absorbent between bottles and bottles/box, and add absorbent; repeat approximately every 2 inches until the tops of the bottles are reached.] **NOTE: Due to the packaging design, the amount of absorbent used in this configuration does meet the requirements for Packing Group I liquids, in 1-quart quantities (AFJMAN 24-204, Atch. 20.)**

3. Shake down and add vermiculite to make a tight pack. [If using Absorbent GP or A-900, firmly compress and add more to make a tight pack.]
4. Twist bag and tape closed with fiber reinforced tape.
5. Closure IAW 2a.

**E. Test Applicability-** See test results in parts 7

(1) Tests documented herein are design qualification. It is the responsibility of the government shipper/certifier to fully verify design compliance and packaging material quality.

(2) Drop testing performed herein was tested in accordance with DLAD 4145.41, AR 700-143, AFJI 24-210, NAVSUPINST 4030.55A, and MCO 4030.40A. This joint DoD policy document allows packaging to be drop tested more than once provided the packaging continues to pass the 49CFR 178.603 requirements. Questions about or clarification of this policy can be sought from the respective preparing activities of the regulation.

(3) DoD contractor use of this test report or its resultant certifying mark only with the permission of the testing activity AND as specified in DLAD 4145.41, AR 700-143, AFJI 24-210, NAVSUPINST 4030.55A, and MCO 4030.40A.

(4) Pass/fail conclusions were based on the particular specimens, both inner and outer containers, and quantities of each submitted for test. Extrapolation to other manufacturers, applications, commodities, inner containers, container sizes, or lesser internal quantities is the responsibility of the packaging design agency or applicable higher headquarters and the limitations documented in 49CFR. Extrapolation of test results based on lesser than minimum UN/DOT required test specimens is also the responsibility of the packaging design agency or applicable higher headquarters.

(5) Reference to specification materials has been made based on one of the following methods: supplied by AFPTEF, provided by the requester, markings printed on, attached to or embossed on the packaging.

(6) Testing performed in accordance with 49CFR 170-180, except as documented in this report.

(7) Performance testing was undertaken and completed at the request of an agency responsible for management of the dangerous good(s). The completion of successful UN/DOT testing does not, by itself, authorize the marking and transportation of the dangerous good(s). Applicable modal regulations should be consulted concerning the relationship of performance testing completed and the dangerous good(s).

(8) The DOT performance tests are intended to evaluate the performance of the entire packaging configuration's ability to prevent the release of contents during conditions normally incident to transportation. The criteria used to evaluate container system performance is whether the contents of the packaging are retained intact. The successful completion of the recommended tests does not ensure undamaged delivery.

(9) Tests performed and documented, herein, in no way verify Government supplier's operations (included but not limited to: internal procedures, suppliers, or manufacturing processes) comply with the DOT's or international's regulations. The testing facility has no knowledge and assumes no knowledge, that specific material testing requirements (i.e. plastics - only allowed to use regrind from the same operation; specific vendor plastic formulations including quantity of carbon black, ultra-violet inhibitors or pigments, or production run's individual leakproofness tests) are or were performed by the manufacturer(s) listed herein, unless otherwise noted in the report.

### **Part 3 Introduction.**

**Brief description of why specific tests were performed and rationale for the test product selected (if applicable).**

The equivalent of Packing Group I testing, surface modes, was requested on the above stated configuration. This configuration is intended to be applicable to a large assortment of liquid products contained in rectangular metal bottles. For lesser volumes, variations to testing requirements can be found in 49 CFR, part 178.601(g).

**Three packaging configurations were actually tested, differing only in the absorbent/cushioning material: vermiculite, HAZMATPAC A-900, and Absorbent GP. Vermiculite and Absorbent GP provided marginally superior protection for the interior bottle(s). The bottles when packaged using HAZMATPAC A-900 did not leak, but did incur the worst denting and deformation (see pictures and description of test results). The three absorbents/cushionings could be used interchangeably in this combination packaging provided there is no incompatibility between the absorbent and the contents of the inner containers.**

**NOTE: Due to the packaging design, the amount of absorbent used in this configuration does not meet the requirements for Packing Group I liquids, in 1-quart quantities (AFJMAN 24-204, Atch. 20.)**

Water was used as the test liquid as permitted by 49 CFR part 178.602(c).

Each combination packaging was subjected to appropriate drop and vibration testing as prescribed by ASTM D4919. These tests are designed to simulate the shock and vibration a package configuration may encounter during conditions normally incident to transportation. The order of testing was drop test followed by the vibration test; the stacking test was performed on empty outer containers. The Cobb test was performed on samples taken from boxes not otherwise used in testing.

*The use of one sample packaging configuration for multiple tests and drops is DoD policy as stated in DLAD 4145.41, AR 700-143, AFJI 24-210, NAVSUPINST 4030.55A, and MCO 4030.40A. This option was exercised in this test as noted in Part 6.*

#### **Part 4. Tests Required/Performed (as applicable).**

**NOTE:** Packagings fabricated from fiberboard, paperboard, or paper, including composite containers with outer fiberboard containers, should be conditioned for a minimum 24 hours prior to any testing. Standard conditions  $23 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $73 \pm 4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and  $50 \pm 2\%$  relative humidity apply.

**A. Hydrostatic Pressure Test.** 3 outer containers each individually tested for 5 minutes at 15 psig. **Not applicable.**

**B. Stacking Test.** One test per outer container, 3 containers required. Compression by a top load is calculated to simulate a stack height of **3 meters**, maintained for 24 hours. **NOTE:** Where the contents of the test sample are non-dangerous liquids with relative density different from that of the liquid to be transported, the force shall be calculated in relation to the latter.

Static weight. Apply the calculated weights using a constant load evenly over the entire container.

$$M = \frac{m(3000-h)}{h}$$

where: m = container's gross mass (as shipped) in kilograms = 13.2 Kg

h = container's height in millimeters = 304.8 mm (effective height for container in stack)

M = constant load mass in kilograms = 116.7 Kg

or: 
$$W = \frac{w(118-h)}{h}$$

where: w = container's gross weight (as shipped) in pounds = **29 lb**

h = container's height in inches = **12 in.** (effective height for container in stack)

W = constant load weight in pounds = **256.2 lb**

Information - This test assumes similar weight containers stacked on top of the test sample. This may or may not be a valid assumption. This calculation also only provides a minimum weight. Consideration should be given to what will actually be experienced in the transportation cycle.

**C. Drop Test.** 5 drops in order: flat on the top, bottom, long side, short side and top corner. The drop height shall be appropriate for the packaging group of the commodity. The container shall strike a target which shall be a rigid, non-resilient, flat, and horizontal surface. For other than flat drops, the center of gravity shall be vertically over the point of impact.

1. Solids and liquids, if the test is performed with the actual contents to be carried, or with another substance having essentially the same characteristics, or for liquids if the test is performed with water and the intended contents has density less than  $1.2 \text{ g/cm}^3$  (specific gravity less than 1.2) the drop height shall be:

<u>Packing Group</u>	<u>Drop Height</u>
<b>I</b>	<b>1.8m</b> (70.9 in.)
<b>II</b>	<b>1.2m</b> (47.2 in.)
<b>III</b>	<b>0.8m</b> (31.5 in.)

2. Where the test sample doesn't contain the intended contents and its specific gravity is greater than 1.2, then obtain the required drop height in meters by calculating the following with product density (d):

<u>Packing Group</u>	<u>Drop Height</u>
<b>I</b>	<b>(d) x 1.5m</b> ((d) x 59.1 in.)
<b>II</b>	<b>(d) x 1.0m</b> ((d) x 39.4 in.)
<b>III</b>	<b>(d) x 0.67m</b> ((d) x 26.4 in.)

Round the drop height up to the first decimal.

**D. Vibration Test (domestic requirement).** One test per container, total of three test specimens.

The test shall be performed for 1 hour at a frequency that causes the package to be raised from the vibrating platform to such a degree that a piece of material approximately **0.2 cm** (1/16 in.) thickness can be passed between the bottom of the package and the platform. The vibrating platform shall have a vertical double-amplitude (peak-to-peak) displacement of **2.54 cm** (1 in.). Perform tests in accordance to 49CFR 173 Subpart B, Appendix C and 49 CFR 178. **NOTE: If only one configuration sample is tested, test duration shall be 3 hours.**

## MATERIAL SPECIFIC TEST

**E. Fiberboard Water Resistance (Cobb) Test.** One test per fiberboard specimen, total of six.

Strong, solid or double faced corrugated fiberboard (single or multi-walled) must be used, appropriate for the capacity and the intended use of the box. The water resistant outer surface must not increase in mass greater than **155 grams per meter<sup>2</sup> (0.0316 pounds per foot<sup>2</sup>)** after 30 minutes in accordance with International Standards Organization (ISO) 535 or Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) T441 or ASTM D 3285. Three individual fiberboard specimens shall be exposed on the wire side and another three on the felt side.

## Part 5. Criteria for Passing Tests.

**A. Hydrostatic Pressure Test.** Any leakage is cause for rejection. **Not applicable.**

### B. Stacking Test.

No test sample shall leak. Composite and combination containers shall not exhibit leakage of the filling substance from the inner receptacle or container. No test sample shall show deterioration which adversely affects transportation safety or show any distortion liable to reduce its strength, cause stacking instability, or cause damage to internal container components likely to reduce transportation safety.

**C. Drop Test.**

Each packaging containing liquids shall be leakproof when internal and external pressures are equalized. Composite and combination containers shall not exhibit damage to the outer packaging likely to adversely affect transportation. In addition, the inner packaging shall not leak into the filling substance or lading.

**D. Vibration Test.**

No rupture or leakage from any of the packages. No test specimen shall show any deterioration which could adversely affect transportation safety, result in possible discharge of contents or reduce packaging strength.

**E. Fiberboard Water Resistance Test.**

The calculated water absorption of all samples shall be less than **155 g/m<sup>2</sup>**.

**Part 6. Discussion and Test results.**

*Narrative description of test results, including any rationale for variations. For each packaging to pass, all applicable tests must be performed and pass criteria listed herein.*

**A. Hydrostatic Pressure Test. Not applicable.****B. Drop Test. Pass**

Tested at standard conditions: 23 Degrees C., 50% RH.

The combination packagings, identical except for the different absorbent used in each, were dropped 1.8 meters onto the required four flat sides and a top corner. Damage to inner containers packaged in all three absorbents was very similar. **Vermiculite:** there was no leakage from the bottles. The inner containers developed mostly minor denting/deformation, with slight rounding of 2 bottle bottoms. **HAZMATPAC A-900 and Absorbent GP:** there was no leakage from the inner containers. Inner containers in both absorbents developed distinct denting and deformation. Sides on some bottles were deeply curved/pinched on cans cushioned by A-900. Some rounding of bottle bottoms occurred in both absorbents.

**The three absorbents/cushionings can be used interchangeably in this combination packaging provided there is no incompatibility between the absorbent and the contents of the inner containers.**

**C. Stacking Test. Pass**

Duration: 24 hours at standard conditions: 23 Degrees C., 50% RH.

Three empty, closed outer containers were stacked with 344 lb for 24 hours (extra weight was used to account for potentially heavier configurations). There was no damage to the boxes which could result in damage to the inner containers, no crushing, nor stack instability. No other adverse results were noted.

**D. Vibration Test. Pass**

Duration: 3 hours at standard conditions: 23 Degrees C., 50% RH.

The same combination package(s) used in the drop tests was also used for the vibration test. The combination packaging(s) was tested on an electro-hydraulic vibration table which was set at 1-inch vertical double amplitude (peak-to-peak) displacement, at a frequency such that the packaging was raised from the platform. The distance was measured using a 1/16-inch feeler gage. At the proper frequency the feeler gage could be passed between the bottom of the package(s) and the table surface. There was no additional damage to the outer or inner container(s) caused by the vibration and no leakage from the inner container(s). This test procedure duration of 3 hours with one container exceeds the 49 CFR requirements.

**E. Water Resistance (Cobb) Test. Pass**

Test at standard conditions: 23 Degrees C., 50% RH.

As required by 49 CFR part 178.516, ASTM D 3285 Water Absorptiveness of Nonbibuouulus Paper and Paperboard (Cobb Test) was performed on specimens cut from the lot of boxes used in the drop stack and vibration tests. The test period (exposure of the samples to water) was 30 minutes, which exceeds the requirements of ASTM D 3285 by 28 minutes.

3 Specimens were tested on the exterior side. Average **145 g/m<sup>2</sup>**.

Values : **145 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 142 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 147 g/m<sup>2</sup>**

3 Specimens were tested on the interior side. Average **117 g/m<sup>2</sup>**.

Values : **116 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 113 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 123 g/m<sup>2</sup>**

**0 Specimens exceeded the 155 grams per square meter maximum limit.**

Many factors may affect water absorption by corrugated fiberboard. Among these factors are abrasion, wear, flexure, improper storage, and age. These can greatly decrease the ability of the fiberboard to resist water absorption and result in higher than tested results. In addition, some fiberboard products are only treated on one side of the material, making the box construction method of increased importance. Usually, the water resistant side is the smooth side. The shipper must take appropriate steps to ensure that the box is correctly constructed with the water resistant side on the outside.

#### **Part 7. Marking on Container:**

The container specified herein passes the DoT and international regulatory requirements to the extent tested. Equivalent DoD built or grandfathered containers MAY also qualify for the following marking as directed by DoD policy documents.

UN      **4G/X13.2/S/01**  
           **USA/DOD**

#### **Part 8. References**

- A. 49CFR 170-180
- B. DLAD 4145.41/AR 700-143/AFJI 24-210/NAVSUPINST 4030.55A/MCO 4030.40A - Packaging of Hazardous Materials
- C. ISO 535/TAPPI T 441/ASTM 3285 - Determination of Water Absorption of Paper and Board (Cobb Method)
- D. ISO 3574 - Cold-reduced carbon steel sheet of commercial and drawing quantities.
- E. ASTM D999 - Methods for Vibration Testing of Shipping Containers.

#### **Part 9. Distribution List**

Commander  
 Defense Logistics Agency  
 DDC-J-3/J-4-0  
 ATTN: Linda McCarthy  
 2001 Mission Drive  
 New Cumberland PA 17070

AFMC LSO/LOP  
 Project Folder





6 1-quart metal bottles placed in vermiculite inside a 12 in. x 12 in. x 12 in. fiberboard box. Placement is same for bottles cushioned with HAZMATPAC A-900 and Absorbent GP. **The three absorbents/cushionings could be used interchangeably in this combination packaging provided there is no incompatibility between the absorbent and the contents of the inner containers.**



Closed inner liner of combination package containing 6 metal bottles. Outer container is reinforced with one girthwise strip of fiber reinforced tape.



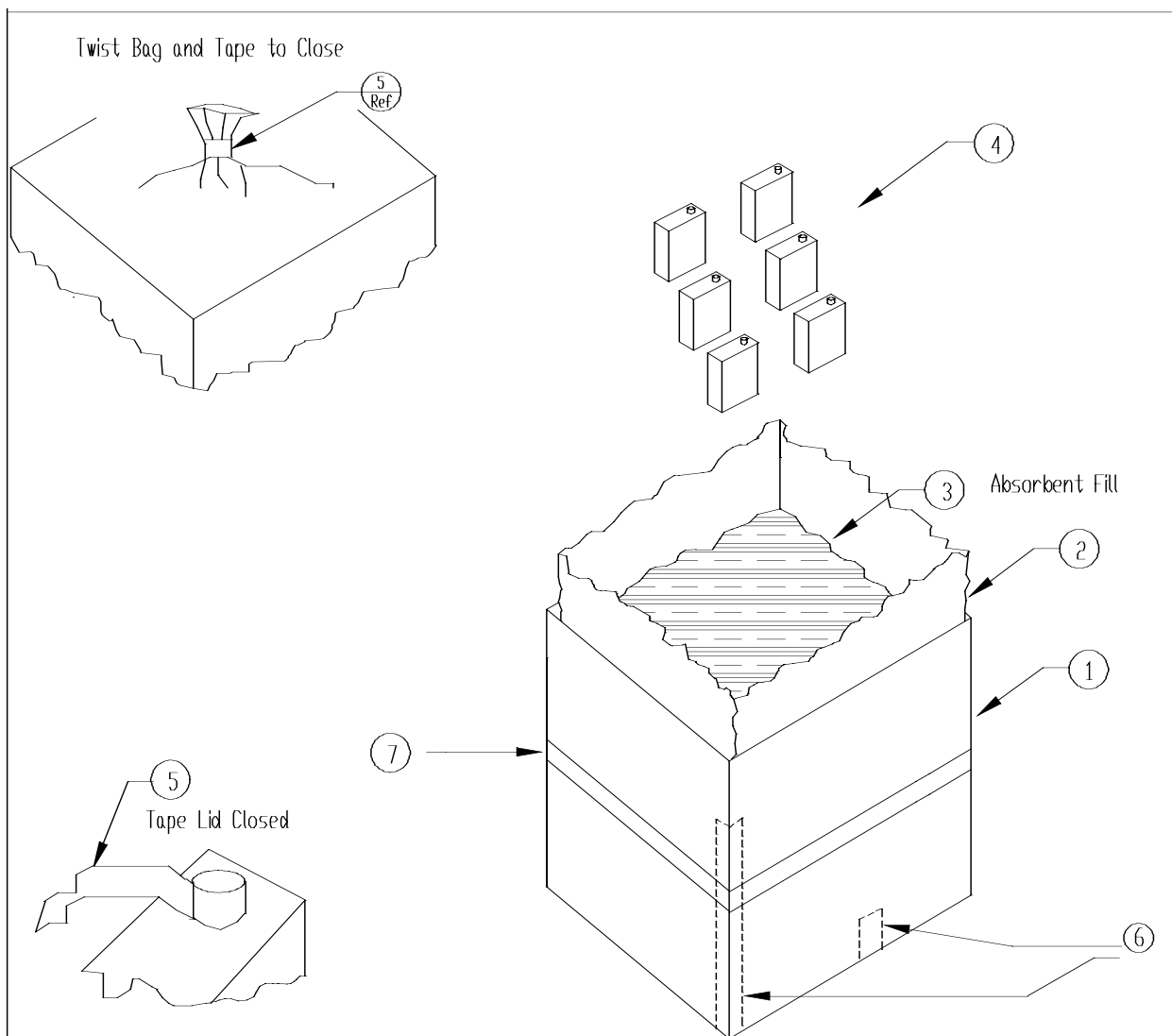
Damage to the metal bottles cushioned by vermiculite.



Damage to the metal bottles cushioned by HAZMATPAC A-900.



Damage to the metal bottles cushioned by Absorbent GP.



8			
7	A/R	Girthwise Band, Fiber Reinforced Tape	
6	A/R	Sealing Tape	
5	A/R	Fiber Reinforced Tape	
4	6	Inner Containers, 1-Quart	
3	A/R	Absorbent Cushioning	
2	1	Poly Bag	
1	1	Single Wall Corrugated Fiberboard Box	
Item	Qty	Description	Notes
		AFPTEF Air Force Packaging Technology and Engineering Facility	Note: Follow All Instructions in TR
File: DLAF00801D.DWG			Dimensions in Inches
Dwg No: DLAF00801D			Scale: NONE
Engineer: SJ Evans			PAGE 1 OF 1
		DATE: 16 May 01	